

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

The support 3 bears first means 4, 5 for supporting the exterior surface of the tire, second means 6, 7 for holding the tire on the machine and spreading the beads of the tire, and third means 8 arranged to underlie a toric section of the tire for supporting and rotating the tire about its axis x.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, a tire is held stably by the three means together by gripping only one toric tire section AB arranged substantially vertically and located between the upright 2 and a vertical plane C which contains the rotational axis X of the tire. This tire section AB shown in Figure 4 and delimited by the radial section planes A and B is, in fact, such that the segments A'B' and A"B", respectively, are substantially vertical.